

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----011731Z 025233 /40

R 011540Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8125
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 7723

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC UR ASEC
SUBJECT: APPARENT KGB ATTEMPTS TO RECRUIT/ENTRAP
IREX GS/YF EXCHANGEES

REF:(A) MOSCOW 7358 (B) MOSCOW 6567

1. SUMMARY: IREX GRADUATE STUDENT/YOUNG FACULTY
GS/YF EXCHANGEES STEVEN KOCH VISITED
EMB MAY 31 TO REPORT ON WHAT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN KGB
EFFORTS TO RECRUITMENT. GS/YF VICTOR KAMENDROWSKY ALSO
REPORTED UNUSUAL REQUESTS FROM AND TREATMENT BY SOVIETS
PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. BOTH WERE ATTACHED TO MOSCOW
STATE UNIVERSITY (MGU) HISTORY FACULTY AND WERE AMONG
THOSE WHO HAD REQUESTED AND WERE DENIED EXTENSIONS OF
THEIR RESEARCH STAYS. IN HOCH'S CASE, HIS DESIRE FOR
EXTENSION WAS USED AS BAIT IN RECRUITMENT EFFORT.
END SUMMARY.

2. GS/YF EXCHANGEES STEVE HOCH IS DEPARTING USSR
FOR HELSINKI JUNE 1. DURING FINAL VISIT WITH
ACAO/EXCHANGES MAY 31, HOCH REPORTED THAT HE HAD
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TRAVELLED TO KIEV IN MID-APRIL WITH SOVIET MALE
FRIEND. THEY HAD SHARED A HOTEL ROOM AND HAD SPENT
SEVERAL DAYS TOGETHER IN KIEV. UPON THEIR RETURN TO
MOSCOW, HOCH'S SOVIET FRIEND CALLED TO LOCAL
MILITIA STATION DURING THIRD WEEK IN APRIL FOR INITIAL
QUESTIONING SESSION AND, LATER IN WEEK, FOR A FOLLOW-UP
SESSION, IN MID-MAY, THE FRIEND WAS SUMMONED TO THE

MILITIA FOR A SECOND PAIR OF MEETINGS.

3. AT FIRST MEETING, HOCH'S FRIEND WAS QUESTIONED BY INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BEING FROM KGB. HE ASKED HOCH'S FRIEND WHAT FOREIGN STUDENTS HE KNEW AT MGU. HOCH'S FRIEND, WHO IS NOT HIMSELF AN MGU STUDENT, FIRST LISTED SOME EUROPEAN STUDENT CONTACTS BUT KGB REP CONTINUED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL NAMES UNTIL HOCH'S FRIEND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE KNEW HOCH. KGB REP THEN TOLD HOCH'S FRIEND THAT IT WAS KNOWN THAT TWO HAD TRAVELLED TOGETHER TO KIEV. KGB REP CORRECTLY CITED HOTEL NAME AND ROOM NUMBER AND DATES OF KIEV VISIT.

4. KGB REP THEN ASKED HOCH'S FRIEND SUCH QUESTIONS AS WHAT DOES HOCH DO IN ADDITION TO HIS RESEARCH, DOES HOCH HAVE SOVIET GIRL FRIEND, AND HOW OFTEN DOES HOCH GO TO EMBASSY? DURING SECOND MEETING, HOCH'S FRIEND REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD THAT KGB REP WANTED TO MEET HOCH TO DISCUSS WHETHER HE MIGHT NOT WANT TO REMAIN IN USSR AND WORK FOR PROGRESS PUBLISHERS IN LIGHT OF HIS "POOR JOB PROSPECTS AND BLEAK FUTURE" IN US. HOCH REPORTS HIS FRIEND REPLIED THAT, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, HOCH'S PLANS WERE FIRM. HE REPORTEDLY LATER TOLD KGB REP OVER TELEPHONE THAT HOCH HAD NO INTEREST IN WORKING FOR PROGRESS PUBLISHERS.

5. IN MID-MAY, HOCH'S FRIEND WAS AGAIN SUMMONED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAIN ASKED TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH HOCH. KGB REP PROPOSED TO HAVE HOCH'S FRIEND INTRODUCE HIM AS HUSBAND OF COLLEAGUE OF HOCH'S FRIEND'S WIFE. THIS THIRD MEETING OCCURRED FOLLOWING FORMAL REFUSAL OF EXTENSION REQUESTS BY MGU HISTORY FACULTY. KGB REP TOLD FRIEND THAT HE KNEW HOCH'S EXTENSION REQUEST HAD BEEN DENIED AND THAT HE WANTED TO MEET WITH HOCH TO DISCUSS HOW HOCH COULD OBTAIN AN EXTENSION. HOCH REPORTS THAT HIS FRIEND REPLIED NEXT DAY TO KGB REP THAT HOCH HAD MADE FIRM PLANS NOT TO REMAIN IN USSR AND THAT HE WAS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN EXTENSION.

6. EMBOFF ASKED HOCH WHY HE HAD NOT REPORTED TO EMB EARLIER ON MATTER. HOCH REPLIED THAT HIS FRIEND HAD ASKED HIM NOT TO COME TO EMBASSY OUT OF FEAR THAT HE MIGHT SUFFER CONSEQUENCES. HOCH SAID HE DID, HOWEVER, WANT TO REPORT BEFORE DEPARTING. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING BY EMBOFF, HOCH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KGB REP HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST TO HOCH'S FRIEND IN ONE

OTHER UNNAMED AMERICAN STUDENT.

7. OTHER AMERICAN STUDENT MAY HAVE BEEN VICTOR KAMENDROWSKY. KAMENDROWSKY CALLED ON ACAO/EXCHANGES MAY 25 TO REPORT THAT HE HAD TWICE BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER LETTERS, ONCE BY V.G. ZASEDATL' AT MHE AND ONCE BY M.A. BLOKHINA AT MGU INOTDEL. IN BOTH CASES, IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT KAMENDROWSKY'S PROMPT DELIVERY OF LETTER, IN FIRST CASE FROM MHE TO MGU AND IN SECOND CASE FROM MGU TO MHE, WOULD IMPROVE HIS CHANCES FOR GETTING THE EXTENSION HE DESIRED. KAMENDROWSKY WISELY REFUSED IN BOTH CASES.

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8. KAMENDROWSKY WENT TO MGU'S INOTDEL ON MAY 30 TO ASK BLOKHINA'S ASSISTANCE IN ORDERING A TAXI TO THE AIRPORT. HE TELEPHONED EMBOFF TO REPORT THAT BLOKHINA BEHAVED STRANGELY WHEN HE APPEARED. SPECIFICALLY, SHE WAS UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY AND, AFTER GREETING HIM EFFUSIVELY, DASHED QUICKLY TO ANOTHER OFFICE AND RETURNED WITH THE INFORMATION THAT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD GLADLY PROVIDE A CAR TO TAKE KAMENDROWSKY TO THE AIRPORT. BY THIS TIME, KAMENDROWSKY WAS QUITE SUSPICIOUS THAT SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO ENTRAP HIM. HE INSISTED ON ORDERING A TAXI, BUT BLOKHINA PERSISTED IN TRYING TO GET KAMENDROWSKY TO ACCEPT UNIVERSITY CAR. SHE COULD NOT TELL KAMENDROWSKY HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE WOULD BE IN CAR. KAMENDROWSKY THEN INFORMED HER THAT ONE OF HIS FELLOW AMERICAN EXCHANGEES WOULD BE GOING ALONG TO SEE

HIM OFF AND FOR THAT REASON HE PREFERRED TO ORDER
THE TAXI IN CASE THE UNIVERSITY CAR PROVED TO BE
CROWDED. IN END, HOWEVER, KAMENDROWSKY REPORTED,
BLOKHINA REFUSED TO ORDER TAXI, SAYING TO DO SO WOULD
BE WASTEFUL. KAMENDROWSKY THEN FINALLY ACCEPTED
OFFER BUT WAS ACCOMPANIED TO AIRPORT BY
ANOTHER AMERICAN EXCHANGEES.
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9. TWO SCHOLARS WHO HAD REQUESTED AND WERE
REFUSED EXTENSIONS BY MGU HISTORICAL FACULTY --ZLOTNIK AND
SCIACCA--ARE PRESENTLY STILL IN USSR. EMB HAS
HAD NO REPORTS OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS AS OF YET FROM
THEM. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT MGU PRORECTOR TROPIN TOLD
ACAO/EXCHANGES AT MAY DINNER HOSTED BY P&C COUNSELOR THAT
HE HAD REVIEWED REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS SUBMITTED BY
EXCHANGEES IN HISTORY FACULTY AND THAT ALL EXCHANGES
WOULD BE GRANTED EXTENSIONS. EMBOFF IS SURE
TROPIN KNEW FULL WELL WHICH EXCHANGEES WERE BEING
DISCUSSED AND WHAT THEY HAD REQUESTED. NEVERTHELESS,
WHEN ZLOTNIK AND OTHERS VISITED MGU INOTDEL MAY 18 TO
INQUIRE ABOUT EXTENSIONS, BASED ON INFO PROVIDED BY
TROPIN, THEY WERE TOLD FIRST BY BLOKHINA AND THEN
BY DEPUTY PRORECTOR ZEMSKOV THAT EMBOFF HAD "MIS-
UNDERSTOOD" TROPIN, WHO WAS DISCUSSING
ARRIVAL OF SUMMER LANGUAGE EXCHANGEES, AND THAT NEGATIVE
DECISIONS ON THEIR EXTENSION REQUESTS WERE FINAL, IN
SPITE OF SHORTENING OF REQUESTED EXTENSIONS FROM TWO
MONTHS TO ONE AND REPEATED REQUESTS FROM IREX FOR FAVOR-
ABLE DECISIONS BY HISTORY FACULTY AND INOTDEL. UP
UNTIL VERY END, EMBOFF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET STRAIGHT
FINAL ANSWER FROM EITHER MHE OR MGU ON WHY REQUESTS
WERE REFUSED. RESPONSES ALTERNATE BETWEEN
ABSENCE DURING JUNE-JULY OF ADVISORS AND LACK OF
HOUSING.
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